Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and correlates of vitamin D status in African American men

Version: 1 Date: 15 April 2009

Reviewer: Tom R Hill

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Manuscript review for BMC Public Health

Prevalence and correlates of vitamin D status in African American men
By Tseng et al.

Comments to the authors:

Major compulsory revisions:

In relation to the results and statistical analysis, I have a number of comments:

What is the distribution of the 25(OH)D data? The authors should include this in the statistical analyses section.

The post-hoc test(s) for the ANOVA tests used in Table 1 needs to be specified. In addition, some variables are missing superscripts for the ANOVA tests.

Which statistical test was used to compare the % of subjects with 25(OH)D levels < and #15 ng/ml between sociodemographic, lifestyle and dietary variables on Table 1?

I think the discussion could be presented in a more succinct form.

Minor Essential revisions

To ensure consistency with the way 25-hydroxyvitamin D is described throughout the manuscript, I suggest using 25(OH)D. Consequently, replace 25-D with 25(OH)D throughout.

Did any of the subjects go on vacation during winter/spring to a destination where there would be significant cutaneous vitamin D synthesis?

The portion quantities for cereals and milk needs to be defined.

Abstract page 2 In the results, I suggest you remove: ‘among the 136 men not missing these data’

Page 1 Email address of Marilyn Tseng is missing an ‘e’ i.e. edu

Table 1 The ‘%’ sign needs to be inserted e.g. under the distribution column

P 12 conclusions line 9: I suggest replacing ‘rather than as….’ with ‘in addition to
an increased….’

Table 1 page 21 Subscripts should be superscripts

Table 1 page 20 The mean (SD) or median (IQR) needs to be inserted for total vitamin D intake

The portion quantities for cereals and milk needs to be defined.

Other comments

Was body fat % measured in these subjects?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests